From May 2025

(Volume 191)

Cover Picture

Sitting Pretty

Well, it looks like I will reach 200 Volumes before the end of the year so once again I must apologise if you find these boring . However everything around us changes so rapidly that I feel that at least I am able to show what it is like living in these wonderful and yet dreadful times. Wealth beyond imagination is now seen in the most unlikely places and very often totally undeserved. Software billionaires, sports stars and media and entertainment giants come to mind. Often these individuals have personal wealth greater than entire nations. Surely this cant be right.

I also feel strongly that the society I live in does not allow freedom despite being heralded as a democracy. Laws are passed by people that do not have any understanding of how the average person lives as they are living in a parallel universe. They do not, and can not, effectively represent the majority. Change must surely come but that also worries me. "Take care what you wish for"..comes to mind .

Is the alternative better. A rhetorical question.

Anyway. Writing this at 5.00am before my morning swim is possibly not the best mindset to think clearly.

Looking at our Google diary, I realise that we seem to fill days, even months, ahead which we both enjoy. Such a varied diet of walks, meeting people, lunches, theatres etc. etc we love this planning of our days. We never are bored. That to us would be an anathema. Sitting at home, binge watching tv or just laying in bed is not our thing but obviously that appeals to many others. We love doing things that may seem petty or strange but often the greatest memories come from these times as these Photo History Volumes will confirm

I seem to have become the official photographer at Swimmers coffee mornings, 'Lad's' walks, dinner at friends etc etc as these Photo History Volumes attest but very, very rarely have I been admonished for taking photos ..so I will continue.

These photos (maybe with my comments) can be looked back at any they show how much everything has evolved. That is, in my opinion, what makes it so worthwhile. I honestly don't know if these Photo History Volumes will be looked at once I am not around but knowing how I love to look at old photos I hope there are folk out there that will . Likewise, enjoy the nostalgia that these Photo History Volumes may provide. (Maybe the clue is in the name!)

Well it's a rainy and chilly day in early June so I have just finished this volume and putting it all together reminds me what a lot of fun and how very varied our life is now. I hope, in the future, that we will be able to pull random volumes off the shelf and laugh at ourselves . It is a sad reflection on oneself if one takes life too seriously. Yes, there are times for seriousness but so often one sees people who seem to make a virtue out of being grumpy. I'd hate to be remembered like that. Maybe people will say " he was a fool" but I cant do much about that ..but its certainly better than being remembered as a grumpy old man.

Today we just did the Park run once again and met Raquel and Martin in Wiltons afterwards for Greek coffee and koubas. The other Lynn and Jose and Cristina excused themselves so it really is a great Saturday ritual already and we really enjoy it.

Will I reach volume 200 before the end of the year?...who knows/? but I have already told folk to start thinking about doing a personal page like the previous Volume 100 and 150.

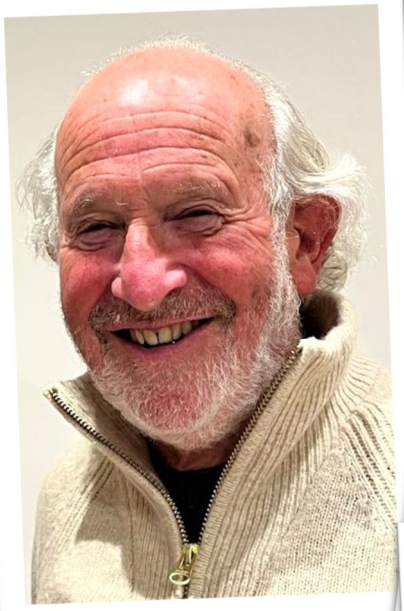
I know Lynn is not happy that I 'pour over the computer' endlessly but at the risk of being a real bore with rounded shoulders I guess that the risk I will happily take

This year we found some bushes totally covered in these webs which contained hundreds of wriggling small caterpillars which lowered themselves to the ground on fine silk threads. (..and into your hair too)

It's that again and the diary reminds us it's elderflower gathering time. It's a bit hit and miss as the ripe flowers are very weather dependent but (using out 'grabber') we managed to get enough from the high tops where other folk can't reach...yes, were getting crafty in our old age. Back home, the three day cleaning and infusion makes a total disaster area out of the kitchen..but it's only once a year ("Thank God" Lynn said!)

REDWOOD BISTRO

Our meeting of minds at Redwoods (swimmers # May '25)



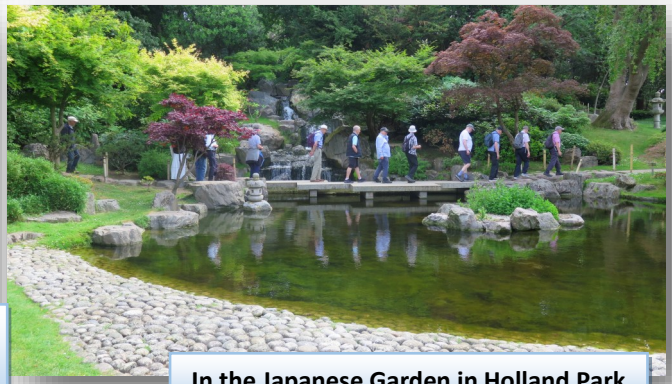
A few random shots from the May 'lads' walk...from Holland Park ending at Chalk Farm

Camden Street Art

Neil directing walkers across Kensington Palace Gardens

Caught on camera illegally fishing??

Clever way of graffiti prevention at Chalk Farm



In the Japanese Garden in Holland Park

Canalside art

London walking Contrasts

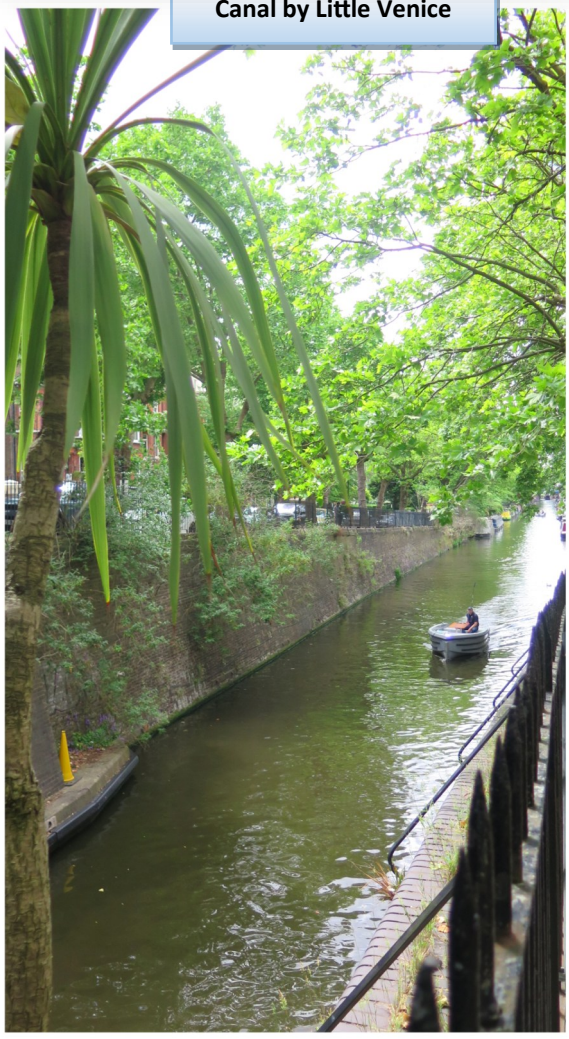
Praed Street

Gerald by murals in Holland Park

Grand Union Canal houses and gardens

Houseboats moored with mini gardens by Lisson Grove

Pembroke Arms at Chalk Farm



Canal by Little Venice

parkrun is a free, community event where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. parkrun is 5k and takes place every Saturday morning

There are currently 1,335 parkrun events around the country taking place every weekend, with more locations being added all of the time.

Grovelands parkrun, Enfield results for event #709. Your time was 00:45:55.

Congratulations on completing your 74th parkrun and your 74th at Grovelands parkrun, Enfield today. You finished in 285th place out of a field of 292 parkrunners. You were the 110th female and came 1st in your age category VW80-84. Take a look at this week's

Sue E

Judy & Ivor

Sue & Morris

Stu

Great Friends at a lunch party here in June'25

Lynn

Lynn (in the corner) with Morris (the giant!)

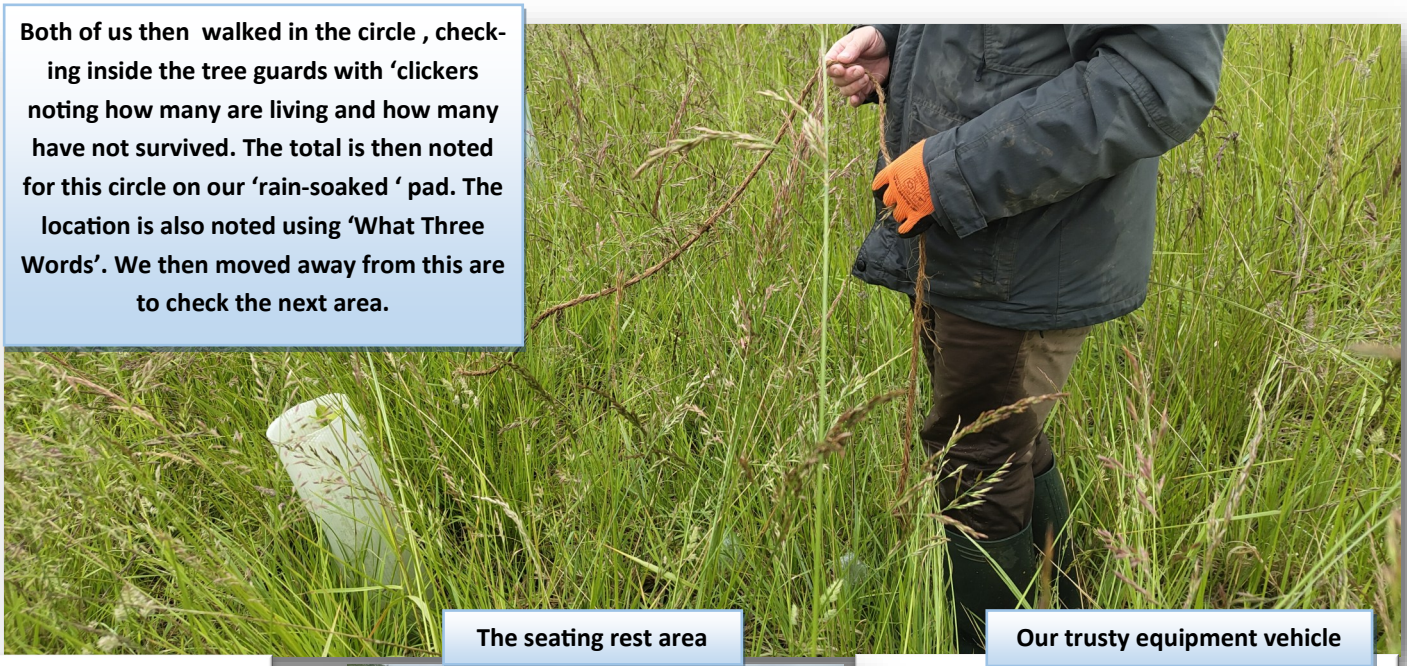
Survival checking method

FOEC with us volunteers maintain the newly planted trees and today we did a survival check which, although looking amateurish, is actually quite efficient. It was a rainy day and we split into twos and covered a wide area.

The post is hammered into the centre of the area to be checked. The rope is attached to the post and the hammer placed on the ground to show the starting point

A26 - top area near Ferny Hill was 78.44%alive.
A25 - the slope down once you get through the Ash wood was 84.15% alive
A27 - the large field at the bottom was 75.04% alive
Overall for the areas surveyed this year
we are at 75.49%

Both of us then walked in the circle , checking inside the tree guards with 'clickers noting how many are living and how many have not survived. The total is then noted for this circle on our 'rain-soaked ' pad. The location is also noted using 'What Three Words'. We then moved away from this are to check the next area.



The seating rest area

Our trusty equipment vehicle

All duly noted

This will (hopefully) be a wood in the future

One of our ponds waiting for the inevitable rainy weather

One of our 'memorial' oaks doing well

A funnel spider in its rain-dotted web

The situation by a pond where our memorial oaks are doing well

Enfield in Bloom
Sponsored by
Enfield in Bloom
Garden Competition 2024
Best Environmental/Wildlife Area
Sponsored by Tottenham Hotspur Ltd
Enfield Chase Woodland
Gold
Cllr. Mohammad Islam
The Worshipful The Mayor of the London Borough of Enfield
ENFIELD Council
Friends of Enfield Chase
Polite Notice
PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE GREEN PROTECTIVE GUARDS FROM THE TREES.
• The guards protect the trees from wild animals & act as a mini greenhouse.
• Removing the tree guards & supporting with a zip tie causes rubbing and weak spots on the tree's stem.
• Each year we survey the trees to assess their health. If a stake and guard are removed from a "dead" looking tree we will not count it in our data, for future replanting.
Friends of Enfield Chase
If you would like to get involved please follow our Facebook group for information on our volunteering days.
For more information:
info@friendsofenfieldchase
Facebook Group Friends of Enfield Chase
https://www.friendsofenfieldchase.org.uk/enfield-chase/
ENFIELD Council

This prime position is along the South Bank Thames Path. Demolition has finished and construction will soon begin. By locating the building next to it I hope to be able to get shots here when it is completed

Yes, we managed to find our way in!

Another massive development just behind Blackfriars Station

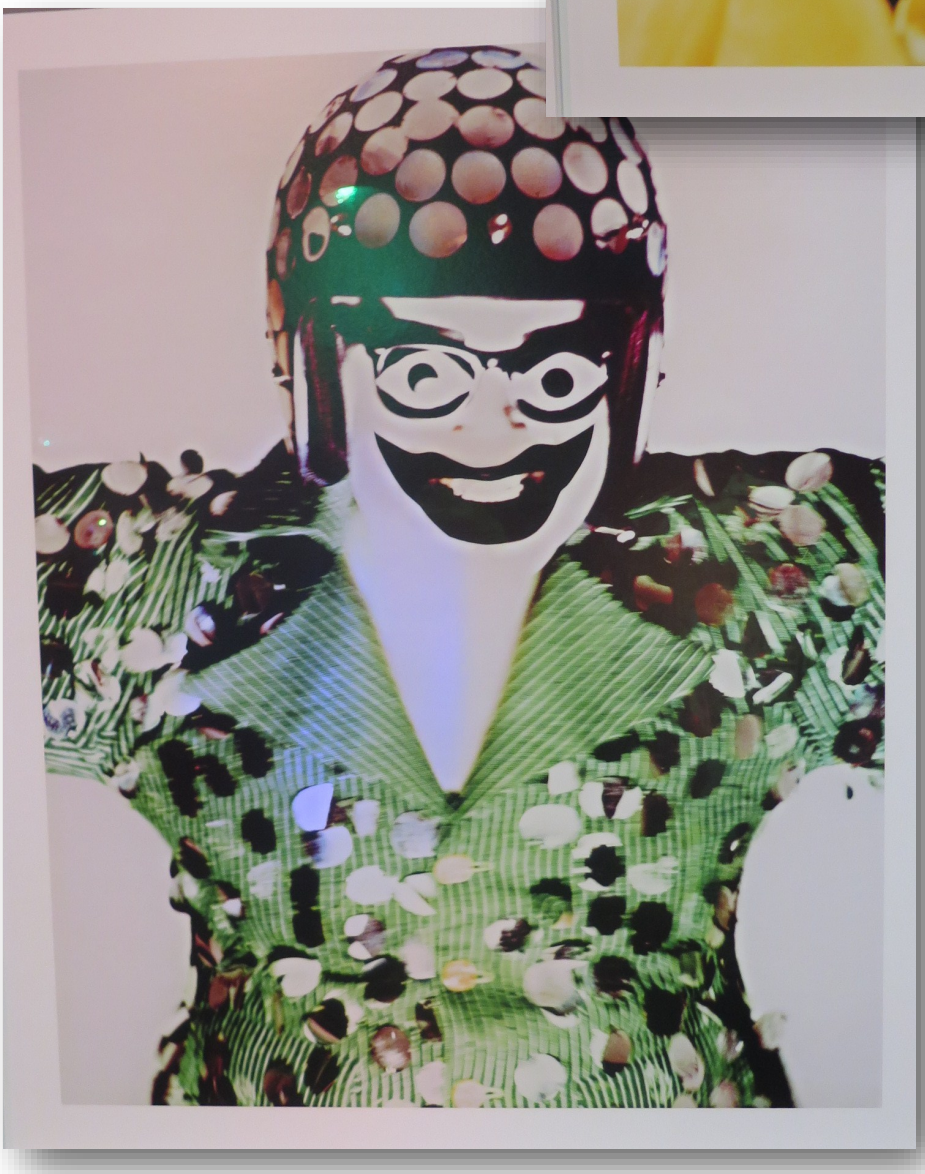
A wonderful display of chefs' knives near Clink Street. Boy are they expensive

They have opened a fascinating collection of small shops in the arches close to Clink Street and Borough Market. Very quiet still but they are obviously going do well once they are 'on the tourist route' around this area

In (and view from) Tate Modern

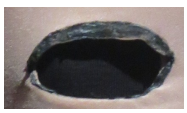
The Tate Modern show some pretty obscure exhibitions but we both felt that this Leigh Bowery was pretty pathetic. Not the exhibition, but the guy himself. I could find no discernable talent. He seemed to be a gay guy just wanting exposure and the punk scene at the time played into his desire to shock. The pictures I got seemed interesting but maybe this is my view and in no way due to his 'lack' of talent. He explained that he was a performance artist. What performance?? And where is the art?? Sorry, wasted on me.

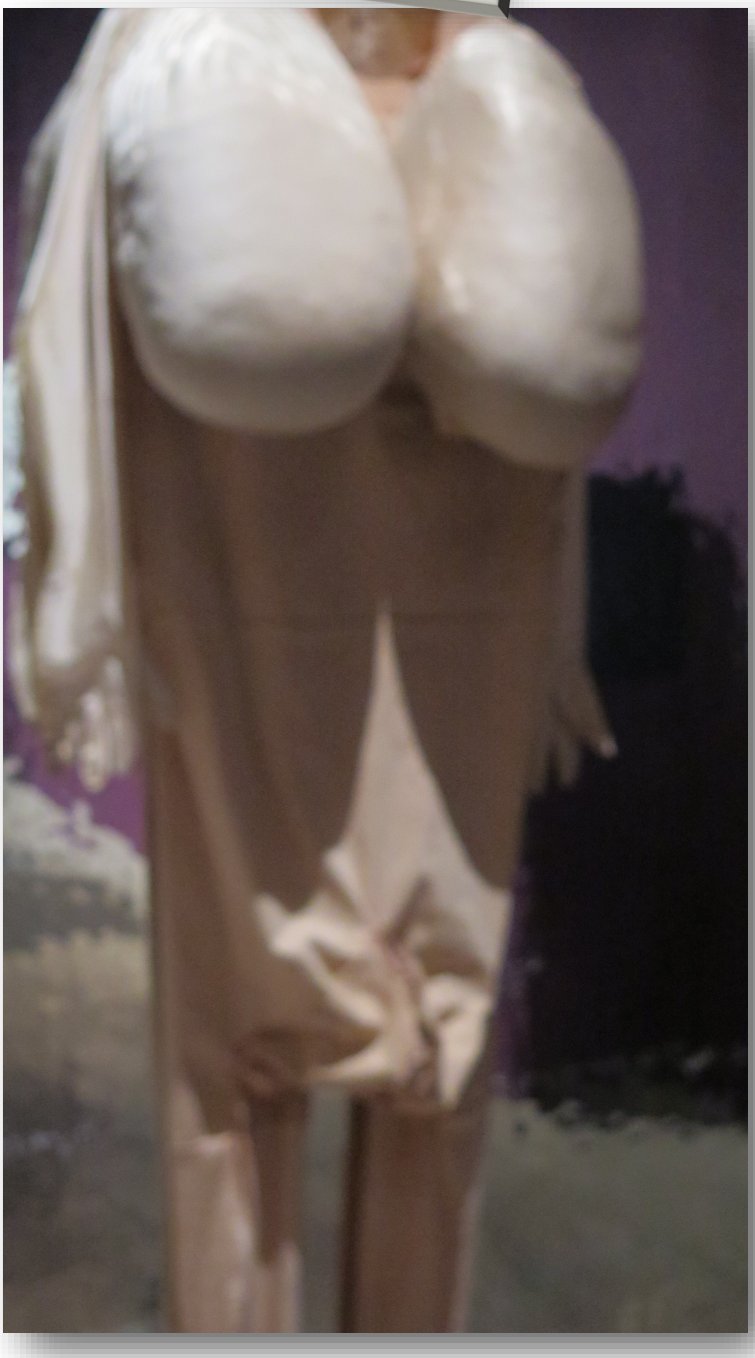
Fascinating outfits but he neither designed or made them.....he just wore them



Miss Fuck It (Leigh Bowery) with Fat Gill (Gillian Beckett)

TV Productions in association with TRAMWAVE, Glasgow, present
LEIGH BOWERY
IVAN CARTWRIGHT
ADRIAN HOWELLS
THE HOMOSEXUAL
or the difficulty of sexpressing oneself
BAGLEY'S WAREHOUSE
York Way NW1, Kings Cross Tube
10.15PM
TUES, WEDS, THURS
£6/£4 concession





DERANGED PERVERT

I realise I may be very critical of this ‘so-called’ artist but never the less Lynn I came out of the exhibition with views and reactions so maybe that's what it’s all about. Personally I think that my study on page 28 is memorable. I deliberately left it without any comment.. Apologies if any of the photos offended but believe me I left out some of the more offensive one.